GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3370
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2015
Unsafe Abortions
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that highest number of unsafe abortions in the world are done in India and a large number of maternal deaths are caused in the country on account of this;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has conducted/ proposes to conduct any study/ survey on unsafe/ illegal abortions in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent unsafe/illegal abortions in the country?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) & (b): No data on unsafe abortions is collected centrally by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. However, based on the WHO estimates, South central Asia sub-region (which includes India) has the highest number of unsafe abortions in any sub-region. India given the size of the population may be the largest contributor.
Unsafe abortions contribute to about eight percent of all maternal deaths in the country.

(c) & (d): The Guttmacher Institute (New York), the International Institute for Population Sciences (Mumbai) and the Population Council (Delhi) are conducting a research project to generate high-quality data on the incidence of abortion and unintended pregnancy in India. The project will generate 2015 estimatesâ€"both national and for six individual states on the levels of induced abortion and unintended pregnancy, the health consequences of unsafe abortion, the provision of abortion services , post-abortion care, the rate of treatment for abortion-related morbidity in health facilities, and breakdowns of reproductive health indicators by key population subgroups.

(e): In order to make safe abortion services available in public health facilities and to improve the quality of care, a woman centric comprehensive abortion care initiative is being implemented in all states since 2010. The provisions of comprehensive abortion services include
1. Capacity building of the Medical officers in MTP Skills and follow up

2. Rational deployment of these doctors in the facilities to provide Safe abortion services

3. Ensuring availability of the medicines and other commodities for these services at the public health facilities.

4. Documentation of these abortion procedures in line with the MTP Act Rules and Regulations 2003

5. The Comprehensive abortion service has been included in the RMNCH+A matrix being implemented to address issues of pregnancy related mortality and morbidity in India.

6. Funds are being made available to the states for abortion services, through annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP).